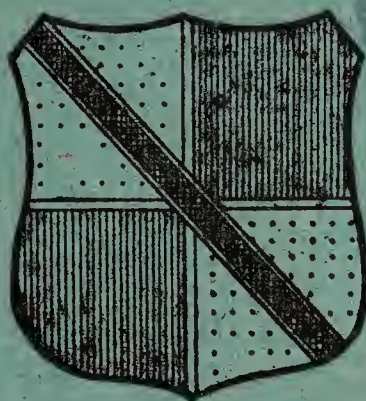


Nantwich Rural District.



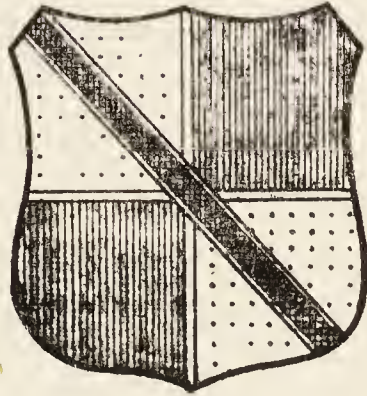
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1948,
by

A. LENNOX THORBURN, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health. D.P.H.

....

To which is appended the Report of
JOHN S. TOWNLEY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent,

Nantwich Rural District.



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Medical Officer of Health

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To which is appended the Report of

JOHN S. TOWNLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent,



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STAPELEY HOUSE,
NANTWICH,
20th May, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District
Council:

Gentlemen,

This year has seen much new legislation and principle. Among the new enactments has been the National Health Act, 1946, which came into force on the 5th July, 1948, and also the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Many problems and difficulties therein are still to be encountered and overcome, and one can only sincerely hope that among the cardinal achievements of the former Act will be rapid admission to hospitals whenever necessary.

In this connection, I would point out that the number of beds closed for the want of staff on the 31st of December, 1948, in Hospitals in Great Britain was 59,903.

The fewer entrants into the profession of nursing has given Hospital Management Committees and Hospital Boards tremendous difficulties in perfecting and expanding the already existing services.

One can safely forecast from the present trends of population in this country that in 1960 there will ^{be} 22.3 per cent. of the population under the age ^{of} 15 and 12.1 per cent. aged 65 and over, compared with 21.4 per cent. and 10.7 per cent. 1948. Ten years from now the School population will be at its peak and thereafter, judging from present trends, a decline must be expected.

It is noteworthy, on the other hand, that the number of pensioners will continue to increase and become proportionately more important and hence place a gradually increasing burden on the social services.

This County has already a progressive scheme for a number of hostels for the aged, which, properly and adequately maintained and humanely administered, should provide one of the greatest assets of the social services.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the staff of the Health Department who have shown marked ability and enthusiasm in their work.

In directing the attention of the Members to the features of the Report I desire to thank them for their considerate administration and, in particular, for their interest, constructive creation, and helpful guidance.

In conclusion I would state that as I took up my appointment in November of this year, the credit for the work covered by this report is due to Dr. O. H. Blacklay, to whom I am greatly indebted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. LENNOX THORBURN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Nantwich Rural District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100,823
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,910
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,849
Rateable Value (1st April, 1949)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£121,749
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated 1949/50)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£480

SANITARY STAFF

Medical Officer (full-time): A. Lennox Thorburn, M.D., D.P.H., appointed 8/11/1948.

Medical Officer: O. H. Blacklay, M.D., F.R.C.S., (Edin.), (Part-time), retired 8th November, 1948.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent (full-time): John S. Townley.

First Additional Sanitary Inspector (full-time): John Craven.

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector (full-time): T. H. Aldrich.

Sanitary Engineer & Surveyor (full-time): H. Crabtree.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The social conditions remain unaltered. The residents of the district surrounding Crewe and Nantwich being employed in these towns and the remaining part of the population being engaged in agriculture which is the chief industry of the District. Industries allied with agriculture, in the form of milk products factories, are situated in the area. There is one clothing factory which employs female labour. There is no unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	474	224	250
Illegitimate	30	14	16

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 20.23.

	Total	Male	Female
Still Births	11	6	5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	21.35.		

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	272	134	138
Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population	10.91.		

	Total	Female
Deaths from Puerperal causes	1	1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	31.74
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33.75
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47	28	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	1	1
Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires comment	None		

Deaths: The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age (males and females) was 16.

There were 2 cases of Infantile Paralysis in this area during the year, which were treated in the local Isolation Hospital, both of which made satisfactory recovery.

The conditions of occupation and environments of the population are healthy.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

There is an excellent state of protection against Diphtheria in the District, due largely to my predecessor's keen interest and drive in this connection and also local general practitioners urging upon patients the urgent necessity for utilising the service.

Statistics show that 90 per cent. of all school children were protected and 45 per cent. of children under school age likewise. Only one case of Diphtheria occurred during the year. This patient had previously been immunised and recovered.

A free scheme similar to the above has just commenced for protection against whooping cough.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health has opened a new laboratory at Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester. In future, it will undertake practically all the usual range of bacteriological investigations except the chemical examination of water.

AMBULANCE AND NURSING SERVICE

The County Council as the local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946, now undertakes these services through its Nantwich Divisional Health Committee.

There are two ambulances stationed strategically at Nantwich on a 24 hour on-call service to meet the needs of accidents, emergencies and infectious disease cases.

Supplementing this service is the British Red Cross ambulance at Haslington.

Section 25 of the Act now lays upon the County Council the duty of providing a comprehensive service for the nursing of the sick in their homes free of charge to the patient.

In the past, such work was carried out by voluntary bodies such as the District Nursing Associations assisted by financial contributions made by the County Council.

This has meant that all the nurses employed by these affiliated and non-affiliated Nursing Associations were transferred to the Service of the County Council with certain additional adjustments.

In my opinion, it is a matter for regret that so far the County Council has not engaged additional and specially qualified nurses to undertake the visitation and after care of cases of tuberculosis.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

There are three Infant Welfare Centres in the District situated at Audlem, Haslington and Shavington. The Infant Welfare Centres at Nantwich and Alsager are used by residents of this District living in the vicinity of these places.

With the reconstruction of the Welfare Centre at Nantwich provision is made to incorporate an Ante-Natal Department which should be a helpful innovation for mothers in the district.

A treatment centre for Venereal Disease is situated at No. 8, Herdman Street, Crewe, where cases from the Rural Area can receive treatment.

HOSPITALS

...

The Barony Hospital at Nantwich serves the Rural and Urban Districts and also Crewe to some extent. It provides approximately 210 beds which in the main are chronic sick. The Regional Hospital Board are now formulating certain plans with regard to this former Poor Law Hospital's future.

There is an Isolation Hospital at Worleston which serves the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich. It is capable of accommodating 20 adults and 30 children, and of treating three diseases at the same time.

There is a Smallpox Hosptial situated in the area of Ravensmoor, which provides for the Nantwich Rural and Urban Districts.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Nantwich with accommodation for 18 patients. —

The Cheshire County Council Maternity Home at Wybunbury Cliffe was opened during the year and is fulfilling a vital need in the District although staffing is difficult.

There is an Agricultural and Industrial Colony for residential treatment of Tuberculosis cases capable of some work, situated in the District. This institution is situated at Wrenbury Hall and was presented to the Cheshire County Council by the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association.

MORTUARY

The present unsatisfactory premises may be dismantled within a year to provide land for a Housing Scheme already under way and consequently there is very urgent need for a properly equipped and adequate Mortuary to serve the needs of the District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Application was made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction under Section 47, with reference to an aged man and wife for an Order for their removal to a suitable hospital, the case being adjourned sine die. Preparations have been made for the application of Section 50 as and when the occasion arises.

WATER SUPPLIES

This has been the first year when the whole of the detailed control of Water Supplies within the Rural District has been exercised by the newly-formed Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board.

Under the new administration little alteration has been noticeable respecting the supplies and pressures available, but no serious complaints have reached this Authority concerning shortage of water during the year.

A Public Enquiry has been held into the proposal to provide increased supplies to the area now supplied from Liverpool Corporation's Vyrnwy Aqueduct and to give a piped supply to the Parish of Wirswall.

Water mains have been laid to afford a supply to the Housing Schemes at Bunbury, Bulkeley, and Wrenbury.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council have received preliminary reports from Messrs. Ward and Ashcroft, their Consultants, on their proposals for dealing with the problem of Sewage Disposal at Haslington and Wistaston. In this connection no further progress has been made towards an agreement on the question of joint action with the neighbouring Local Authorities.

Draft schemes for the sewerage of Audlem, Alpraham, Basford, Burland, Bunbury, Brindley, Calveley, Faddiley, Marbury, Norbury, Newhall, Worleston, Wrenbury, Weston and Wybunbury have been submitted to the Cheshire County Council for their observations and approval under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

In connection with the proposed scheme for draining portions of Church Minshull Village a site for disposal works has now been purchased and it is hoped to commence work on the laying of the sewer early in the coming year.

The laying of a new outfall sewer at Worleston has been completed and the work of constructing new disposal works is now well advanced.

Plans have been prepared and negotiations entered into for the carrying out of a drainage scheme for the Parish of Warmingham including the Council's housing site and the area immediately adjoining.

The necessary sewerage arrangements for the Housing Schemes at Acton, Bunbury, Bulkeley, Marbury, and Wrenbury have entailed the construction of tanks and filters on each site.

Tenders have been accepted for the laying of a new sewer for the drainage of properties in the Cheerbrook Road area of Willaston Parish and the sanction of the Ministry of Health has been granted, and the work commenced.

Improvements to the drainage of properties in Marsh Lane, Edleston, have been carried out by the laying of a new sewer.

To remedy the complaints in respect of Oak Cottages, Wrenbury a new length of sewer has been laid across lands to dispose of the effluent into the River Weaver.

Preparation of schemes for the drainage of Council Housing Sites at Broomhall, Spurstow and Wybunbury is being proceeded with in readiness for the development of these sites during the coming year.

HOUSING

During the year 74 houses have been completed by the Council in the following Parishes: Acton (8); Audlem (14); Alpraham (2); Bulkeley (8); Bunbury (8); Marbury (14); Shavington (6); Weston (6); and Willaston (8).

In addition 21 houses have been built by private enterprise within the Rural Area.

Work on the erection of further houses on various sites is being proceeded with but owing to shortage of labour and other difficulties progress is very slow.

Acton (4). Bunbury (6); Church Minshull (4); Haslington (6); Shavington (4); Wybunbury (8).

Airey Houses at Wrenbury (8) and Bulkeley (4) are in an advanced state of completion and should be ready for occupation early in the new year—work is also in hand on this Airey Type of house at Warmingham (6); Lightwood Green (6); Wybunbury (6), and it is hoped to commence work soon on the outstanding 4 houses at Church Minshull when the site acquisition is completed.

Sites have been purchased for the erection of Council Houses at Alpraham (4); Baddiley (8); Barthomley (10); Blakenhall (10); Broomhall (8); Buerton (16); Cholmondeston (16) and Hankelow (8).

Compulsory Orders for purchase of sites at Aston-juxta-Mondrum (20); Hatherton (8), and Spurstow (part only) (12), have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

Under the Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulations 56A Building Licences to the value of £77,072 have been issued during the year.

The Council have purchased Stoke Manor in the Parish of Stoke and have received approval to a scheme of converting these premises into six self-contained Flats to be let at economic rents. The work of adaptation is now proceeding and it is hoped to be complete for occupation early in 1949.

There is no doubt that immeasurable mental distress is caused by the dire and urgent need for more accommodation in the district, and one is especially glad to note that there is no lowering of the moral standards although it could normally have been expected in certain instances.

An extension to the Council Chamber at Stapeley House has been completed during the year and this increased accommodation allows the Council to hold its meetings with a degree of comfort not possible in the original Council Chamber.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action under this heading was found to be necessary during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are approximately 3,614 pail closets at residential premises in the district, which are now receiving a cleansing service each week.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent which deals with this matter is attached hereto.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Periodical inspections have been made and no infringements found.

CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the district and when applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 for individual caravans on isolated sites are made, each case is considered by the Council on its own merits. Licences with respect to three vans are in force.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

(1) Number of houses found to be infected:—

(a) Council Houses Nil

(b) Other Houses Nil

Number of houses disinfected ... Nil

(2) Method employed when cases do arise is the use of D.D.T. or Gammexane.

(3) Method employed to ensure belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses Nil

(4) Disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority as required by arrangement.

(5) Advice is given to occupiers of houses after disinfestation.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary conditions at the schools are generally good, but there is room for considerable improvement in closet accommodation which could be achieved by conversion to the water carriage system. All schools have a wholesome and adequate supply of water. Cooked meals and milk are provided daily at all schools in the Area.

The following schools were closed during the year:—

Ridley C.P.	8/3/48 to 19/3/48	Measles
Barthomley C.E.	5/4/48 to 16/4/48	Measles
Acton C.E.	3/5/48 to 14/5/48	Measles
Bickerton C.E.	27/5/48 to 14/6/48	Measles

Bridgemere C.E.	27/5/48 to 14/6/48	Whooping Cough
Spurstow C.E.	3/6/48 to 18/6/48	Whooping Cough
Shavington C.P. Infants	3/6/48 to 18/6/48	Whooping Cough
Haslington C.P. Infants	3/6/48 to 25/6/48	Whooping Cough
Worleston C.E.	15/6/48 to 30/6/48	Whooping Cough
Calveley C.P.	16/6/48 to 30/6/48	Measles
Burleydam C.E.	16/6/48 to 30/6/48	Whooping Cough
Bunbury C.E. Girls ...	29/6/48 to 14/7/48	Whooping Cough and Measles
Wybunbury C.E. Girls	29/6/48 to 14/7/48	Whooping Cough

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are 649 farms licensed under the Accredited Milk Scheme, and 103 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk. Frequent inspections are made of the pasteurisation plants in the district and samples are taken regularly and submitted for examination.

NUTRITION

No steps have been taken to increase knowledge on this subject by this Authority.

I have no hesitation in saying that from what I have observed so far of the children of this area, their appetites are evidently well looked after at home and by school canteens and that their nutritional standard is high.

Indeed mothers are to be congratulated and praised for their efforts in this direction, as much of their time must be spent in food queues; in addition, a note should be made here on the present high cost of living.

SHELL FISH

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 41 cases of Scarlet Fever against 23 last year. Diphtheria remained at the same low level, there being one case during the year; the patient had been immunised.

Thirty-six sputum specimens were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, and eight were found to be positive.

Nineteen cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which 13 were pulmonary.

There were four cases of deaths from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.								
Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
15	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	4	3	1	1	—	2	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	4	3	3	2	4	—	—
	13		6		6		—	
	—		—		—		—	
	Total Cases—19.				Total Deaths—6.			

Number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
54	33	49	42

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action has been taken by this Authority.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The following is a tabular statement of the cases of notifiable diseases which were reported during the year:—

	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	41	35	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	17		7
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1		1
Whooping Cough	159		Nil
Measles	263		Nil
Cerebro-spinal-fever ..	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	3		Nil
Ac. Poliomyelitis	2	2	Nil

Cases of Infectious Disease showing the incidence of cases in various age periods among civilians.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	TOTALS
Under 1	—	—	1	—	16	4	—	—	—	21
1 year +	—	—	2	—	11	19	—	—	1	33
2 years +	—	—	—	—	16	20	—	—	—	36
3 years +	2	—	—	—	18	31	—	—	—	51
4 years +	5	—	1	—	24	25	1	—	1	57
5 years +	20	1	3	—	65	120	—	—	—	209
10 years +	12	—	—	—	4	31	—	—	—	47
15 years +	—	—	—	1	1	5	—	—	—	7
20 years +	2	—	1	—	1	6	—	1	—	11
35 years +	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	5
45 years +	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	2	—	7
65 years +	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total all ages	41	1	17	1	159	263	1	3	2	488

CONCLUSION

Since I took up my duties with the Council on the 8th November, 1948, I have been impressed by several matters which have considerable bearing on the health and welfare of the residents of the Nantwich Rural Area.

Whilst the Council is making steady progress in the erection of new houses it is becoming increasingly evident that maintenance and reconstruction of existing dwellings should receive immediate attention and it is hoped that labour and materials will soon permit the building industry to concentrate on this vital work, coupled with encouragement for owners of property, backed by government facilities sufficient to guarantee an economic return on the outlay necessary to modernise many of the working-class dwellings in the Area.

The Town Planning policy to concentrate new building in existing community centres makes the need for sewerage and sewage disposal in many parts of the Rural Area extremely urgent and it is hoped that the Council will be able to embark at an early date on the ambitious schemes in course of preparation.

It is hoped that the truly rural parts of the area which are now demanding an electricity supply, will all in the very near future, be able to enjoy this service which must be recognised as a vital feature in the health and well-being of the people.

The need for alternative mortuary arrangements is an important problem that has to be faced and is one which is receiving the attention of the Council.

The conditions under which meat is delivered for retail distribution in the district has called for considerable comment from time to time, and it is hoped that representation already made to the Ministry of Food will result in the improvements expected.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourteenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

INSPECTIONS

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	1423
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	...	103	
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	64
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	2250
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	195	
Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919		362	
Shops Act	...	...	48
Infectious Disease	...	...	121

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified and appropriate action taken:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	41
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	159
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	17
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	263
Cerebro-spinal-fever	...	...	...	1	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	...	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year two further extensions to the Scavenging Scheme were introduced to bring the whole of the Rural District within the scope of the service, all residential premises receiving a fortnightly collection of house refuse and the weekly cleansing of pail closets being provided for at those residential premises where this type of closet accommodation still exists.

Eight Karrier Bantam Refuse Collectors, convertible for the collection of nightsoil, are being operated to carry out this service.

The repair and maintenance of transport is done in the Council's own workshops at Stapeley House with a consequent saving in cost, and a minimum time loss due to breakdowns and need for hired transport.

The labour position has eased considerably during the year and generally speaking the Council has been successful in recruiting an efficient staff for the execution of the cleansing service, in spite of the fact that it does not always offer the most attractive form of employment.

No difficulties have been experienced in the disposal of household refuse, controlled tipping and land reclamation being effectively carried out. Salvage collection has been efficiently maintained, the value of sales being £754 per annum.

Approximately 50 tons of nightsoil have to be disposed of each week and this has been successfully done by the lagooning system where the nightsoil is composted with straw to produce a manure which is similar to good farmyard manure in both appearance and analysis, and which is considerably less offensive to use. During the year the Council started to sell this manure to householders, allotment holders, and market gardeners, and the demand is now exceeding the supply.

The control and management of such a service involves a considerable amount of administrative work and public cleansing now absorbs a considerable amount of the time of the Council's Health Department.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION

Dustbins have now been provided at all residential premises and schools in the area, which marks a considerable step forward when it is remembered that ashpits and dumps were all too common until a few years ago.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

During the year under review the Council received delegation of powers from the County Council under this Act, but have only been taking action under it with respect to business premises and private dwellings, agricultural land remaining under the jurisdiction of the County Agricultural Executive Committee, acting in pursuance of Section 101 of the Agriculture Act, 1947.

The question has been raised from time to time as to whether it was necessary to have two separate organisations engaged on similar work in the same area and it has been this Council's policy to deprecate duplication of the service. The Local Authority, being responsible for the administration of the Act and its general application, and bearing in mind the need of the service on Local Authority properties, such as sewage works and tips, etc., must maintain an adequate organisation to meet its commitments under the Act.

Whilst it must be recognised that the Agricultural Executive Committee has power to deal with pests on agricultural properties, it cannot be overlooked that to avoid duplication the Local Authority could easily extend its service to meet the needs of agriculture with a considerable saving of cost to all concerned.

It is hoped that the new legislation in course of preparation will eliminate the possibilities of further duplication of the service and unify the administration under Local Authority control.

During the year 362 inspections have been made and destruction of rats and mice has been carried out at 25 commercial premises, 8 private dwellings and 29 Local Authority properties have been kept under constant supervision.

The Scheme has been operated by three part-time Rat Catchers who are full-time employees of the Council's Cleansing Department, and they undertake rodent control work along with the execution of their other duties.

CANAL BOATS

Several visits have been made to the Canals but no boats were seen.

HOUSING

By the end of 1948 the Rural Housing Survey was almost complete, and early in 1949 the final figures became available for the Rural District, and so that they can be published for statistical purposes with the minimum delay, I set them out below in tabular form:—

CATEGORIES

	Satisfactory	Minor Defects	Repair	Reconditioning	Demolition	Total No of Houses
Acton	9	17	4	2	15	47
Alpraham	12	28	21	17	12	90
Aston-Juxta-Mondrum ...	11	7	3	1	2	24
Audlem	60	120	65	35	45	325
Austerson			No Houses.			
Baddiley	8	10	6	10	4	38
Baddington	7	11	1	—	3	22
Barthomley	27	10	5	—	4	46
Basford	32	9	8	2	—	51
Batherton	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bickerton	13	15	4	10	19	61
Blakenhall	31	3	—	—	1	35
Bridgemere	8	7	7	3	4	29
Brindley	7	8	2	3	3	23
Broomhall	18	13	3	1	—	35
Buerton	14	24	13	1	7	59
Bulkeley	13	3	—	8	3	27
Bunbury	73	58	14	27	31	203
Burland	25	45	25	17	9	121
Calveley	7	3	1	2	1	14
Checkley-cum-Wrinehill ...	28	9	7	1	3	48
Cholmondeley	9	10	1	6	3	29
Cholmondeston	4	3	3	6	3	19
Chorley	2	5	4	6	2	19
Chorlton	10	3	2	1	1	17
Coole Pilate	5	1	—	—	—	6
Crewe	14	12	1	—	1	28
Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley ...	22	34	9	7	5	77
Doddington	6	3	4	1	—	14
Edleston	5	2	—	2	5	14
Egerton	3	3	—	—	2	8
Faddiley	9	12	9	10	7	47
Hankelow	9	21	8	4	3	45
Haslington	570	260	61	20	16	927
Hatherton	19	35	12	1	2	69
Haughton	30	8	1	7	—	46
Henhull	4	2	5	2	1	14
Hough	50	20	4	—	3	77
Hunsterson	14	10	—	2	2	28
Hurleston	1	3	1	—	—	5
Lea	2	—	7	—	—	9

	Satisfactory	Minor Defects	Repair	Recondi- tioning	Demoli- tion	Total No. of Houses
Leighton	14	3	3	—	—	20
Marbury-cum-Quoisley ...	10	10	9	4	8	41
Church Minshull	28	14	2	—	11	55
Minshull Vernon	30	9	6	—	1	46
Newhall	69	33	16	6	20	144
Norbury	9	10	15	3	4	41
Peckforton	9	11	—	4	12	36
Poole	1	6	4	7	—	18
Ridley	4	5	—	2	1	12
Rope	42	—	3	—	1	46
Shavington-cum-Gresty ...	388	101	50	9	7	555
Sound	9	9	5	5	2	30
Spurstow	28	19	3	8	2	60
Stapeley	59	56	10	3	—	128
Stoke	3	24	10	1	3	41
Walgherton	15	13	4	4	—	36
Wardle	6	12	4	3	2	27
Warmingham	10	11	1	1	4	27
Weston	91	15	12	5	5	128
Wettenhall	2	11	6	6	—	25
Wirswall	17	4	4	—	1	26
Willaston	204	205	107	2	4	522
Wistaston	605	160	16	—	1	782
Woodcott	3	—	—	—	—	3
Woolstanwood	12	5	1	0	4	22
Worleston	16	27	4	5	7	59
Wrenbury	58	39	6	6	14	123
Wybunbury	80	29	43	4	8	164
	3013	1688	665	303	345	6014

Whilst the above figures portray an accurate picture of the housing position in the Rural Area on present standards

the fact cannot be overlooked that there is considerable room for improvement in the general standards with particular reference to closet accommodation, the provision of bath-rooms and scullery facilities.

Of the 345 houses shown in the Demolition Category, 57 are already under Demolition Orders and the final figure for this category will depend considerably on the outcome of proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, with respect to the 303 houses shown in the category for reconditioning. Similarly the demolition category must be also affected by action under that Section. Much will depend on the question whether facilities for reconstruction of country cottages, on the lines of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, again become available, and in this respect it cannot be forgotten that much useful work was carried out in this area, prior to the war, under those Acts. The demand for houses, and the possibilities of meeting it at reasonable expense, will no doubt influence the extent to which owners of properties in the reconditioning and demolition categories will go to extend the period of usefulness of these houses, many of which, if they are to be saved at all should be subjected to a high standard of reconstruction. The extent to which reconstruction can be carried out will depend in many cases on the speed with which the Council can provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities, and this is a matter which should be treated with extreme urgency to improve the general standards of living in many parts of the area. It is difficult also at this stage to foresee how far road improvements and town planning will influence reconditioning of many of the houses concerned. —

The final position will depend also on how soon circumstances permit the Local Authority to operate housing legislation in its entirety, as unless something is done soon many houses which to-day are within the scope of reconstruction may have fallen into the demolition category.

How far the building industry will be able to meet the demands for the erection of new houses and at the same time improve those existing remains to be seen, but in no circumstances should large-scale demolition proceedings be put in hand until such time as alternative accommodation can be guaranteed. Difficulties arising out of alternative accommodation seriously hindered the administration of housing legislation before the war, and it is hoped that so far as individual

unfit houses are concerned, re-housing of displaced families will be borne in mind.

In these times of uncertainty it is extremely difficult to indicate the lines upon which future housing policy should be based, particularly when it is borne in mind that there are many families living in seriously overcrowded conditions for whom homes have still to be provided. It is very apparent that housing in the general sense must remain the outstanding problem with which Local Authorities will be faced for many years to come.

The preliminary housing survey having now been completed, it is my intention to proceed with a more detailed survey of the houses falling into the demolition and reconditioning categories.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one tripe-dressing establishment in the area which is kept under regular supervision, and causes no nuisance.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a copy of Form 572, forwarded by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to factories.

Part 1 of the Act

1 Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	55	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	116	64	7	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (i)	Number of cases in which defects were found.			Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp. by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	.....	.....
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	.....	.....	.....	.....
(a) insufficient ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for sexes	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	9	.....	9	.....
TOTAL	16	6	9	.....

Outwork (Sections 110-111)

No work of this description is carried out in this District.

Review of certificates of means of escape in case of fire under Section 34 has taken place in consultation with the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Brigade.

MILK SUPPLY

There were 1,454 registered producers of milk in the area at the end of the year. Of these, 103 are "Tuberculin Tested", and 649 "Accredited."

Licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders as follows:—

"Pasteurised" (H.T.S.T.) process	2
"Tuberculin Tested" (Bottler's Licence)	3
"Accredited" (Bottler's Licence)	1
"Pasteurised" (Supplementary)	3
("Tuberculin Tested" (Supplementary)..	4
"Tuberculin Tested" (Dealer's Licence to sell)	6

The Ministry of Food arrangement with the County Council for samples of milk to be taken from premises holding licences for heat treatment issued by the Ministry of Food continued. Two dairies were involved with respect to which this Council had issued licences for the production of Pasteurised Milk.

It was agreed that the County Council should be responsible for taking samples concerned to avoid duplication, and that copies of the results with respect to each premises should be forwarded to this Council.

Results were received from the County Council with respect to 67 samples and all complied with the prescribed conditions.

In addition the following 31 samples were taken by this Council in connection with the licences and all except 12 passed the prescribed tests:—

"Pasteurised"	16
"Tuberculin Tested"	8
"Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised"... ..	7

In the control of designated milk, officials of the Council have worked in close co-operation with the officers of the National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme and those of the Public Health Department of the Cheshire County Council, with excellent results.

There were 169 dairymen retailing milk in the area, and out of the 41 samples taken and submitted to the Sediment test, 40 were found to be clean, one being slightly contaminated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

There have been no slaughterhouses operating in this area during the year. Licences were issued with respect to 25 slaughterhouses.

Inspections of food were made at warehouses and shops, and approximately 821 lbs. of meat (mostly frozen liver), 50 lbs. of cheese, and 57 tins of evaporated milk, vegetables and meats were condemned as unfit for food.

ICE-CREAM

Six premises were registered for the sale and manufacture of ice-cream.

Eighteen samples of ice-cream were taken, of which nine passed and nine failed the Methylene Blue Tests.

Manufacturers were interviewed and advised on hygienic methods of production. Particular reference being given to sterilization of utensils.

"No. 10 Cocktail" was found exposed for sale in one shop, the whole stock of which was withdrawn on representation to the County Food and Drugs Inspector.

NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936.

Preliminary Notices—118 served, 91 complied with.

Statutory Notices—14 served, 11 complied with.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Notices served—12 served, 11 complied with.

Factories Act, 1937.

Statutory Notices—7 served, 5 complied with.

There were no legal proceedings. taken under the above Acts during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

